

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

March 15, 2005

Hollygrove Children and Family Services (Hollygrove) is a well-respected residential care facility, which has cared for emotionally disturbed children between the ages of 6 and 12 for the past 125 years. During the past decade Hollygrove has grown, expanded, and successfully adapted its services to meet the changing needs of children in Los Angeles County's child welfare system.

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is striving to reduce the amount of time that children spend in out-of-home care and to improve reunification and permanency timelines and services. In light of these goals, DCFS is relying less on group home care for young children in favor of returning children to their homes or relatives or placing them in more family-like settings. As a result, fewer children have been placed at agencies such as Hollygrove, threatening the ongoing viability of such agencies.

Hollygrove is an example of the many group homes that have shown genuine commitment to partnering with the County to serve emotionally disturbed children. Such group homes represent a valuable pool of resources, talent, and expertise within the County. As DCFS improves the local child welfare program, new ways of utilizing resources such as Hollygrove must be found and care must be taken to ensure that such valuable partners are not lost. Hollygrove is working closely with DCFS and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to adapt its services to meet the goals of reunification and permanency for foster care children.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to report to the Board within 7 days regarding:

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1. Actions necessary to support and assist Hollygrove's transition from residential care of young children to services that better meet DCFS' goals of reunification and permanency;
2. Actions necessary to successfully transition young children from Hollygrove's residential care either back to their homes or to more family-like settings; and

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct DCFS and DMH to report to the Board within 60 days regarding how the County can maintain and better utilize the resources of agencies such as Hollygrove when it decreases reliance on such agencies for residential placement of children.

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